



## **Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs**

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/>

The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), headed by Assistant Secretary John F. Turner, coordinates U.S. international oceans, environmental and health policy, integrating U.S. domestic interests with geopolitical concerns. OES promotes the full range of U.S. interests in the oceans to advance our national security, facilitate commerce, manage fish resources, foster scientific understanding and protect the marine environment through bilateral, regional, and multilateral fora.

## **White Water to Blue Water Initiative**

<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/worldsummit/blueandwhitewaterdocument.html>

Overfishing, pollution, degradation of habitats, and natural disasters increasingly undermine the ability of coastal populations to meet basic health, economic and social needs. The White Water to Blue Water partnership initiative is intended to promote healthy, well-managed and productive marine and coastal ecosystems that support stable and secure economies and livelihoods in coastal countries, through implementation of integrated coastal, ocean and fisheries management programs in 25 percent of coastal nations by 2015.

## **The Bureau of OES and Panama**

### **United States, Nature Conservancy, Sign Tropical Forest Conservation Act Program with the Republic of Panama**

<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/rls/22406.htm>

U.S. Ambassador to Panama Linda Watt on behalf of the United States, Finance Minister Norberto Delgado on behalf of the Republic of Panama, and Robert De Jongh, Director of the Central American Division of the Nature Conservancy, signed agreements made possible by the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) that reduce Panama's debt payments to the United States by \$10 million over the next 14 years. In return, the Government of Panama has committed to funding local conservation projects that will amount to \$10 million over the next 14 years for the protection and conservation of the Chagres River Basin.

### **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

#### **Panama Sustainably Manages the Panama Canal Watershed (PCW) and Buffer Areas**

<http://usembassy.state.gov/panama/wwwhaidpcw.html>

Sustainable protection and management of the Panama Canal Watershed (PCW) is critical to safeguarding the fresh water necessary for Canal operations, which underlines U.S. Government's economic and strategic interests in the efficient functioning of this vital waterway. As a key maritime crossroads of world commerce, the Canal is essential to developing country economies and free trade in the Americas.

USAID, in close partnership with the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), is developing activities in selected pilot sub-watersheds. The purpose of these pilots is to demonstrate watershed management on a manageable community scale.

### **Tropical Forest Conservation Act**

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/fs/2003/22973.htm>

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) was enacted in 1998 to offer eligible developing countries options to relieve certain official debt owed the U.S. while at the same time generating funds to support local tropical forest conservation activities. TFCA is implemented through bilateral agreements with eligible countries. Panama is one of six countries that currently have TFCA agreements.

## **Current Environmental Policy Issues**

### **The President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2003/22843.htm>

On July 28, 2003, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell formally launched a major United States commitment to address the global problem of illegal logging. The President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging is the most comprehensive strategy yet undertaken by any nation to address this critical sustainable development challenge and reinforces the U.S. leadership role in taking action to counter the problem.

### **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/fs/2002/14871.htm>

One of the earliest international environmental treaties adopted was the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which seeks to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of any species of wild animal or plant. Although habitat loss is now generally considered to be the major reason for the decline in species, the taking of wild specimens for commercial purposes can also pose a significant threat. Rare and protected species and their parts and derivatives can become high value commodities. Illegal trade can run into the billions of dollars, second only to narcotics trafficking.

### **The Unknown Ocean: Baseline Report of the Census of Marine Life 2003**

[http://www.coml.org/baseline/Baseline\\_Report\\_101603.pdf](http://www.coml.org/baseline/Baseline_Report_101603.pdf)

The Census of Marine Life is a cooperative international research program which audaciously aims to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. This Baseline Report offers a framework for considering marine life and reports essential elements of today's knowledge and its limits. The report is intended for readers concerned with marine life, including environmental journalists, teachers, and resource and research managers as well as researchers.

## **Información en Español**

### **Cómo alcanzar el Desarrollo Sostenible**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0402/ijgs/ijgs0402.htm>

Este periódico está dedicado al desarrollo sostenible y, más específicamente, a las estrategias y responsabilidades que el gobierno de Estados Unidos considera críticas para que podamos satisfacer las esperanzas de brindar una vida decente a la gente más pobre del mundo.

### **Ecosistemas y Bienestar Humano: Marco para la Evaluación**

<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/2/viewdocument.aspx?ID=3>

Ecosistemas y Bienestar humano: Marco para la Evaluación es el primer producto de la Evaluación de Ecosistemas del Milenio (EM), un programa de trabajo internacional de cuatro años de duración, diseñado para satisfacer las necesidades que tienen los encargados de la toma de decisiones de contar con información científica sobre los vínculos entre el cambio de los ecosistemas y el bienestar humano. Fue lanzado por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, en junio de 2001, y sus principales informes de evaluación se publicarán en el año 2005.

## **Other Internet Resources**

- Environmental Protection Agency  
<http://epa.gov/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
<http://www.noaa.gov/>
- The National Environmental Directory  
<http://environmentaldirectory.net/>
- The Nature Conservancy  
<http://nature.org/>
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)  
<http://www.cec.org/home/index.cfm?varlan=english>
- National Academy of Sciences  
<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/nas/nashome.nsf>
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service International Affairs  
<http://international.fws.gov/>
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)  
<http://www.unep.org/>